

Huntingdon Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 03 13

Huntingdon militia train away, p3

1897 03 30

Huntingdon Working Men's Club, p3

1897 06 16

Parental neglect, Huntingdon, p3 *

1897 06 16

At Huntingdon Borough Sessions a man and his wife were charged with neglecting to keep their children in a proper manner. Mr Beresford, Inspector of Nuisances for Huntingdon, said he found the room in a most filthy state. There were only a few things in the room, besides a heap of old rags in a corner which seemed to make a bed for the children, and the stench was most terrible. He saw three or four children without shoe or stocking on; the youngest was outside the front door with only a torn shirt on. He only found a small portion of bread, a little piece of butter, and a little sugar in the house. This was all they had

1898 01 07

Huntingdon County Hospital, p3 *

1898 01 13

Huntingdonshire Licenced Victuallers Association formed, p4

1898 05 06

Murderous assault, Huntingdon workhouse, p6 *

1898 05 10

Huntingdon was thrown into a great state of excitement, when it was became known that a murderous assault had been committed on an inmate of the workhouse known as "Tunkey" by another inmate alias "Curly". It appears that after dinner the men adjourned to they wood shop for the purpose of smoking their pipes when all of a sudden Curly seized an axe and dealt Tunkey a terrible blow on the head sending him to the ground. The poor old men scampered away to acquit the porter, and in the meantime the assailant delivered other deadly blows upon the unfortunate man's skull. Curly then escaped from the back of the premises, and, crossing the common, was last seen by some boys making his way up Oxmire Lane

1898 05 25

Huntingdon accident mail cart, p2 *

1898 05 31

Huntingdon mail cart, p3

1898 06 01

Among Huntingdon folk the prevailing topic is the St Neots poisoning case, all interest being centred in it, save and except when the judges attendants, in their rich attire, momentarily withdraw the attention of the admiring public to their shapely calves. Inside the court Superintendent Copping did his best to squeeze as many bona fide pressmen into the space as possible, and to reject those who laid claim to be knights of the quill without satisfactorily proving it. Yesterday was the opening day and many local celebrities were present. The judge said the only important case was that of Walter Horsford who was committed for the murder of Annie Holmes at St Neots

1898 06 06

Today we gathered in the little court of Huntingdon, which has become so familiar to us during the past week, conscious that within a few minutes we should be witness to the last dread incidents of the trial of Walter Horsford, the ruddy young farmer who for the last four days had occupied that corner seat over there in the dock. How the prisoner took the ghastly recital of the death struggle of Mrs Annie Holmes could not be seen but to the ordinary hearers the narration of the horrible incidents was sufficiently fearsome. After 25 minutes the twelve good men and true returned and the Foreman rose and with a somewhat broken voice replied to the usual question from the Clerk of the court, "Guilty." "Walter Horsford" said the Clerk, "you have been convicted of the crime of wilful murder. What have you to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon you?" A momentary spasm passed over his face, his lower lip quivered as with quavering voice he replied "I have only to say that I am an innocent man."

1898 06 27

Huntingdon death inhabitant, p3 *

1898 08 03

Huntingdon accident, p3

1899 02 21

On April 25th 1599 Oliver Cromwell was born at Huntingdon. On April 25th 1899 meetings will be held in Huntingdon to celebrate the three-hundredth anniversary of the birth of its greatest son. What form these celebrations should taken has not yet been decided. There is talk of erecting a statue of Cromwell and the authorities of the Grammar School, which was Cromwell's school, have resolved to signalise the occasion by making an appeal for funds for its re-building.

1899 03 03

Huntingdon infectious diseases

1899 04 28

Under the auspices of the Free Church Federation the Cromwell tercentenary was celebrated at Huntingdon. Flags and bunting were liberally displayed, and the town wore a holiday aspect. About 500 people sat down to a public luncheon. An afternoon demonstration on Market Hill numbering thousands of people opened with the singing of the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers"

1899 09 22

Another accident Huntingdon mail, p3 *

1904 06 15

One day only. The one exhibition in the world that has no counterpart: Buffalo Bill's Wild West and congress of Rough Riders of the World headed and personally introduced by Col W.F. Cody, 'Buffalo Bill'. Three special trains, 500 horses, 800 people. 100 Redskin braves including the famous warriors of the Sioux, Ogallallas, Brutes, Uncapappas, Cheyenne and Apache tribes in Indian pastimes and war dances. Includes the Battle of Little Big Horn, Custer's last rally. The vast arena illuminated at night by special electric light plants. The entire grand programme will positively be presented twice daily (Rain or Shine). Dennis James' Fields, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. Friday June 24th – Advert

1907 03 07

In the recent County Council elections for Castle Ward, Cambridge both A.B. Whibley and James Wootten received equal votes. Both candidates are elected but neither can vote until one or other petitions the High Court, which is an expensive process. In a similar incident in Huntingdonshire candidates drew lots but after the 1857 parliamentary election in Huntingdon both Mr Fellowes and Mr Heathcote sat in the House of Commons but were unable to vote until Heathcote gave way. 07 03 07

1909 10 08

The smaller of two weights of the clock in the tower of Swavesey church fell with a crash on Sunday when the wire broke. There was nobody in the church at the time but Mr J. Bridgford, who was in the yard of the Manor opposite, heard the crash. It was repaired by Mr E. Trench Smith, clockmaker of Huntingdon, and set going again to the satisfaction of the dwellers in Church End and of persons hurrying to catch trains. CWN 09 10 08

1910 02 25

A fine aviation ground is to be established Huntingdon on the site of the old racecourse due to the enterprise of a syndicate to be known as 'Aviation Courses Limited' who hope to have flying in progress during the Whitsuntide holidays. It will be started under the aegis of the Royal Aero Club supported by Lord Sandwich and a Huntingdon and Midland Counties Aviation Club will be formed. A grandstand is being erected, the Humber Company are erecting workshops and they anticipate the co-operation of the Bleriot School of Aviation. There will be periodical race-meetings and international gatherings of aviators 10 02 25o

1910 05 06

Aviation meeting Portholme meadow Huntingdon – 10 05 06d

1910 07 22

A Huntingdon hotel received a telephone message from Thrapston to say that the steward of the Earl and Countess of Dudley was anxious to arrange for them to stay in the district. A motor car was despatched to fetch him and he inspected the accommodation, asking for a spring mattress to be added to one of the beds. He also interviewed a hairdresser and arranged for a man to dress her ladyship's hair. As his luggage had not arrived he was compelled to go to an outfitter to purchase a nightshirt. But suspicions were aroused, the police were contacted and the 'steward' left suddenly, much more unostentatiously than he had arrived. 10 07 22e

1910 09 16

The past week has been marked by an unusual number of fatalities. At Huntingdon a poor woman in a fit of insanity cut the throat of her infant child and then committed suicide. At Littleport a little girl of six years of age was run over by a farm cart and killed. A Stansted carpenter was knocked down by an express train and the body of a St Ives man was found in the river at Huntingdon. The Over mail cart driver blew his nose and immediately fell to the ground dead, probably caused by the rupturing of a blood vessel in the brain 10 09 16c

1911 03 31

A scheme for the development of Port Holme, Huntingdon, as an aviation centre is virtually an established fact. Mr James Radley, who was the first aviator to use the meadow will play a prominent part in the undertaking. Hangars will be placed on the meadow near the Great Northern Railway where his original hangar was erected. Works have already been taken for the construction of aeroplanes and numerous sheds are expected to be erected shortly. Most aviators consider Port Holme to be the best aviation ground in England, easily accessible from London and the North 11 03 31f

1911 11 03

The airman who made two wide circuits of Cambridge on Wednesday evening was Mr W.B. Moorhouse, who had flown from Huntingdon, whither he returned in the dark, guided by the flarelights on Portholme. The journey of 40 miles occupied 42 minutes – 11 11 03

1911 12 08

Mr Moorhouse made a fine cross-country flight from Huntingdon aerodrome, landing at Northants County Golf Course. After lunch he made a circuit of several villages before returning. He found travelling slow and the cold was so intense he had to descend to a lower altitude. On Tuesday he made a flight by moonlight, making a number of circuits, descending safely by the light of petrol flares 11 12 08b

1911 12 29

Several Cambridge people cycled to Huntingdon to see the flying at Portholme Meadows. They saw two machines in the air and watched Mr Moorhouse make a beautiful spiral volplane (guide with the engine cut off), then give chase to some sea-gulls. The landing ground was practically flooded and when descending his machine entered the water, causing the tail to lift and turning it completely over. Down it went into the water with Mr Moorhouse in the well of the machine. Numbers rushed to help but before they arrived they saw the aviator come crawling out from under the plane and walk knee deep to a horse and trolley. He seemed none the worse for his involuntary cold plunge 11 12 29 also another plane crashes on landing

1912 01 26

The long-sustained wet weather and recent snowfall have brought serious floods. Rising waters have caused the stoppage of the chain ferries to Chesterton, the towing path under Victoria Bridge was submerged and meadows between Grantchester and Newnham are under water. A ride on the Great Eastern Railway from Huntingdon to Cambridge presents a view of an immense lake studded with trees and the large Portholme Meadow is under water to a considerable depth. At St Ives basements in Bridge Terrace and kitchens at Filbert's Walk are flooded. 12 01 26b

1912 04 26

Mr W.B.R. Moorhouse covered the 80 miles between Huntingdon and Brooklands at a speed of a mile a minute. Steering a 50 h.p. Gnome engined Bleriot monoplane, the aviator started at 7.05 am, the weather being perfect. A little more than an hour later he was passing over Hendon but then ran into a thick mist at Hampton Court and had to descend to within 60ft of the earth in order to steer a good course. He made a safe landing at Brooklands at 8.25am. 12 04 26f

1923 07 12

Nardini, the Italian airman, landed at Huntingdon after an adventurous journey from Birmingham. His destination was Hendon but he lost his way in the Midlands and ran into a terrific thunderstorm, his machine being buffeted in an alarming manner by the hurricane. Suddenly he observed an open space, and making a volplane landed by pure luck in the centre of Huntingdon aerodrome. The airman was almost frozen and his hands were numbed. The monoplane suffered some slight damage in the storm 12 07 12h

1912 08 02

When the Women's Suffrage Association held open-air meetings at Abington and Linton numbers attending were noticeably large in proportion to the size of the village and a good many have their names as 'friends of Women's Suffrage'. At St Ives a meeting was held on the Market Place where about 300 listened with sympathetic attention to Miss H. Frazer, a well-known speaker for the cause who has come to help in Suffrage propaganda. She also addressed a similar meeting at Huntingdon where a large and orderly crowd of men showed deep interest and a resolution in favour of women's suffrage was passed without a single dissident 12 08 02 c d

1912 08 09

Ever since his undergraduate days Mr Will Moorhouse of Huntingdon has devoted himself with unrelenting zeal and undaunted pluck to mastering the science of aviation. Now he has set a new record. With his newly-married wife and the aeronautical correspondent of the Daily Telegraph he has flown the channel starting from Douai and arriving at Ashford two hours later. This is the first time the Channel has been crossed by an aviator with two passengers. A serious accident attended the forced descent owing to a storm. The airman and his passengers escaped, but the new Breguet airplane was badly damaged. 12 08 09a & b

1913 01 17 CIP

Huntingdon workhouse

1913 01 31

William Barnard Rhodes Moorhouse, the well-known Huntingdon airman, was accused of driving a powerful racing car near Gloucester in such a reckless way that it frightened two horses being driven by a farm labourer. In trying to control them the man had been knocked down and killed. The car was travelling at great pace and made a terrific noise. Moorhouse admitted excessive speed but there was nothing to show this had made the horses shy. He knew nothing of the accident until he'd reached Gloucester. The jury found him guilty but with a strong recommendation to mercy. He was fined £20
13 01 31 p9 CIP

13 02 21 p12

Huntingdon County Hospital report

1913 03 07

Huntingdon Chamber of Commerce discussed the need for a more adequate supply of artisans' dwellings in connection with the Town Council's proposal to construct a new road to open up the Lammas Lands at the back of the Cromwell House Estate. A local company might be formed to develop a portion of the land or, alternatively, there could be a co-partnership housing scheme. There was also concern about delays in serving customers at Huntingdon Post Office owing to only one clerk being at the counter. 13 03 07 p12 CIP

1913 03 28

A new water plane designed and constructed at the Huntingdon Aeroplane Works by Messrs J. Radley and Gordon England was taken to the Port Holme in the hope of a trial flight. High winds made this impossible until Tuesday morning, when the breaking of a driving chain just as a start was being made, still further delayed operations. The first flight was made on Thursday, Mr England, covering about two miles at 20 to 30 feet from the ground, and demonstrating the power of the machine to remain in the air with only two of the three engines running 13 04 11 p12 CIP # c.26.1

1913 04 25

Local inventions patents – W.G. Pye, G. Maddox, Steam Works, Hartford Road Huntingdon have applied for a patent relating to a folding hood for motor vehicles

1913 05 11

Huntingdon car through shop window

1913 07 25

The proposed co-partnership scheme for the provision of artisans' dwellings in Huntingdon would buy a field in American Lane from Mr G. Montagu at half the proper price. Five pairs of cottages would be built on half the field at a total cost of £2,000. The Government would advance £1,300 leaving the society to find £700. The tenants would have fixity of tenure and by purchase of shares they could live rent free. 13 07 25 p12 CIP

1913 07 25

P.C. Squires testified that a car passed through Huntingdon Market Place at a very slow pace, making a tremendous noise. There was a suffragette meeting on at the time. The driver, a cinematograph proprietor, said the lever which controlled the half-compression had slipped back and stuck which caused the car to make such a noise. He drove slowly because it would have been dangerous to do otherwise. An employee of Murkett Bros, motor engineers, said the cut-out was open allowing the exhaust gasses to escape without passing through the silencer. The driver was fined. 13 07 25 p12

1913 12 05

Huntingdon arson

1914 09 11 CIP

Irene Russell arrived home at Huntingdon after an adventurous journey from Germany. She was at a school at Goslar, in the Hartz Mountains, when war broke out and had to stay in a hotel for three weeks before she had a chance to get away. She made for the Dutch frontier and after four days of wearisome travelling got through via Flushing and Folkestone. She was politely treated by the German officials but they are very bitter against England

1914 09 25

King inspects soldiers, Huntingdon

1914 10 23

Huntingdon telephone improvement

1915 09 10

Huntingdon Gem cinema extension agreed

1921 02 16

Parachute descent by Major Orde Lees witnessed by several thousand in Huntingdon Road meadow – 21 02 16a, b

1924 01 04

The former Clocks and Gramophone Works at Huntingdon have been purchased by the firm of J. E. Hough Ltd of the Edison Bell Works, Peckham, and are to be opened early this year for the manufacture of gramophone records and wireless parts. Employment to between 300 and 400 hands will be given by this new industry. The factory has remained inactive for a year and the town has suffered as a result. It will be used for making the well known “Winner” records. Powerful engines still in the building will

be made use of, but it will also be necessary to introduce additional steam power and heat

1924 05 11c

Coming! Bronco Bill’s Wild West exhibition and mammoth circus. Bronco Bill’s world famous elephants. Bronco Bill’s new group of performing prairie horses and 20 other big acts. Monday next, Midsummer Common, Cambridge. The great show will also visit Royston and Huntingdon - Advert

1925 07 11

Part of a boot supplied by a Cambridge firm has led to the identity of an officer who fell in the first year of the war. During the work of exhumation and reburial recently carried out in France there was discovered part of a boot stamped with the name of Messrs G. Dewberry & Son of Sidney Street. An examination of their books showed it belonged to a pair supplied to Lieut. R. Walmesley, late of Magdalene College, whose family lived in Huntingdon.

1926 08 16

Earthquake shocks of unusual severity were felt on Sunday morning. In Cambridge occupants were awakened by the rattle of windows, crockery and furniture. Two residents in West Road were aroused from sleep by the oscillation of their beds; a lofty wardrobe continued to shake and its contents to rattle for some time. Railwaymen on night duty said the telegraph poles rattled and the windows of signal cabins shook. Several residents of Huntingdon felt three tremors

1927 05 23

The coming of age of Viscount Hinchinbrooke was celebrated at Huntingdon. Luncheon was served to the tenantry & Colonel Chichester, Chief Constable, on behalf of the tenants presented Lord Hinchinbrooke with a magnificent travelling clock and weather barometer. In the evening the house staff and employees on the farms and gardens were entertained to tea at which his Lordship was presented with a handsome silver inkstand. The band of the 5th Hunts Battalion, Northants Regiment played for dancing.

1927 12 31

A serious fire broke out at the Edison Bell Gramophone Factory, Huntingdon, as a result of which 400 employees, the majority girls, are thrown out of work. The flames spread with great rapidity and as the majority of the buildings were of wood they were soon caught in the blaze. The works are the property of Messrs Hough Bros, the well-known gramophone record makers of Camberwell and have been in existence a little over three years. They have also added the manufacture of wireless appliances. Lost in the fire were many valuable stocks of records and electrical apparatus.

1929 11 28

An amazing story was told at Huntingdon police court when a woman was charged with obtaining goods and money by false pretences. Edward Elphick, house furnisher of Huntingdon, said she had paid with a cheque that was returned marked 'No account'. Albert Bigmore, jeweller of Ramsey told a similar story. Police said she had made many untruthful statements. She came here about a year ago from Essex where she left her husband and four children and lived at Warboys with another man. She then moved to Wistow, Woodhurst, St Ives and Houghton before taking a cottage at Hartford. Wherever she lived she left behind debts and non-payment of rent. She wrote many letters to herself which purported to be from her uncle promising large sums of money and a motor car. She also claimed to be the widow of a naval officer. None of these were true.

1930 09 19

The Edison Bell Gramophone and Radio Works at Huntingdon employ over 300 people. About 30,000 'Radio' records are made each week; they are stamped out between dies and passed to girls to put the edge and finishing touches. Various gramophones and wirelasses are manufactured including compact two and three valve 'all-main' sets in preparation for the Radio Exhibition. Amongst the machinery used are automatic lathes which need no human attention. 30 09 12

1930 11 15

Messrs Windover's disused motor carriage works in George Street, Huntingdon have been sold. For years the firm employed hundreds of skilled workers until they acquired more extensive works in London. It was a sad sight to see the great works standing idle but now Chivers are to establish a factory for canning vegetables, the most up-to-date of its kind in the country. Already local vegetable growers are alive to the fact that a regular output for their produce will be available close at hand.

30 11 15

1931 04 10

Lord Sandwich has offered to sell Huntingdon council three acres of land between Hartford Road and Primrose Lane for a housing site; ten houses in Hartford Place and two in St Clement's Passage are to be registered as clearance areas. But land in the village of Hartford will not now be incorporated into Huntingdon. 31 04 10c

1931 05 08

Huntingdon Housing Committee felt the time had arrived when they could not support any further housing schemes except in conjunction with the clearing of slums. There were 97 applicants on the housing list but building new houses would be a burden on the rates. It was difficult to find a site alongside a main road; the last scheme took up a number of allotments but it was better to provide houses and gardens than allotments. 31 05 08a

1931 06 12

Huntingdon councillors agreed to purchase four acres of land at Ambury Hill for a new housing scheme, at £160 per acre. Their intention is to clear the slum areas and give people better houses to live in. They went ahead despite warnings that the total indebtedness of Huntingdon had increased by over £70,000 since 1915. They had been told there were 90 families on the waiting list, but could only find 45; there were only three men who wanted to get married and wanted homes. But even if the land was set out as a playground for children it would do no harm and there would be little expense. 31 06 12i

1931 06 19

Two men who had lived together and then parted through a quarrel are the central figures in a tragedy. One is a painter and decorator of Swiss nationality who now lies in Huntingdon hospital in a serious condition as the result of a gunshot wound in the left side. The other, a general decorator, is dead: he shot himself when police tried to enter the window of his house at Brampton. 31 06 19f g h

1931 06 26

Plans for children to be accommodated at St Neots Poor Law Institution were rejected by the Government who say children should not be placed in an institution intended for the sick and invalid poor. But the Guardians cannot afford to procure another home for them. At Huntingdon the present children's quarters and old laundry could be adopted to take 50 tramps on the separate cell system. 31 06 26c

1931 07 11

Huntingdon council are still experiencing difficulties in their plans to replace slum houses with modern dwellings: can they obtain the ground, would old people be prepared to vacate old houses for more suitable ones and would they be able to pay the rent. How could they rent new houses at five shillings a week all-inclusive when the old ones were more? The whole things turned upon figures and they did not quite know what the figures were. 31 07 11b

1931 07 31

A serious accident occurred during a performance by Capt. Barnard's aerial circus at Port Holme, Huntingdon following a passenger flight. A young woman had just been up for a trip and, on alighting, walked around the wings into the revolving propeller. The blade struck her left shoulder, smashing the bone. It was not revolving at great speed, otherwise she would have been killed outright. The force of the blow stopped the propeller instantly. Despite the mishap the programme of aeronautics continued and the passenger flights proved very popular. 31 07 31a

1932 07 08

A new oak altar and side chapel was consecrated at All Saints' Church, Huntingdon. It is the gift of the Countess of Sandwich in memory of her mother, Bessie McLeod Leggett, and was designed by J.M. Cowper who was responsible for the Warriors Chapel at Westminster Abbey. 32 07 08

1932 08 26

Of Huntingdon Town Football Club little can be written. Owing to poor support by the public and heavy travelling expenses, they are in debt to the extent of £60 and have decided not to continue in the Peterborough League. It is hoped that things will improve. The public must rally round more if they desire Huntingdon to remain on the football map. 32 08 26h

1933 01 07

Huntingdon councillors rejected proposals to expand the town boundaries to include Hartford. It would cost too much to maintain the sewerage, lighting, water supply and scavenging and there is ample land near America Lane for future development. 33 01 07

1933 04 10

1933 06 16

Huntingdon water scheme - 33 04 10c

The Edison Bell factory at Huntingdon, which at one time was a busy workshop for hundreds of hands making gramophone records and parts for wireless, was offered for sale. A large company assembled but there appeared no special demand for the premises which were offered with some of the important fixed machinery. It was withdrawn at £10,000. The disposal of the modern plant and machinery occupied two days and buyers were attracted from a wide area. 33 06 16a

1933 10 05

The Huntingdon car park attendant was accused of assaulting a man on Mill Common where the car park is situated on market day. George King said he'd been talking to Mr Richardson, a greengrocer of Buckden, who'd said he could have some cabbages from his lorry. But the attendant had come up and told him to put them down, then punched him in the eye when he refused to do so. The attendant claimed King had used filthy language and not answered his questions. 33 10 05

1934 01 22

In the new ward at Huntingdon Infirmary people aged between 70 and 80 have to go up two flights of stairs to their own bathrooms to get an early morning wash. It was the most ridiculous place he had ever seen for a modern hospital, Mr F.W. Figg told *Guardians* The need of a lift was never more apparent yet of 16 members on the Management Committee only four were present when the question was discussed. The title 'Management Committee' was a misnomer, he said. 34 01 22

1934 02 19

The overcrowding of the casual wards at Huntingdon Institution is alarming *Guardians*. A hundred casuals are being accommodated in a building with only 42 beds. Many have to sleep on the floor between the beds and in the dining room. The last time the problem was only temporary, due to fruit picking but now it happens almost every night. Last month's admissions were 1,204 compared to 290 for the same period last year. 34 02 19

1934 02 19

Cambridge showed little interest in the 100 hunger marchers who arrived from Huntingdon. They halted at Girton College where jugs of tea and buns were given. About 200 people including members of the University Socialist Society and Anti War Movement escorted them into town. Darkness was falling as a rally was held on Parker's Piece where a small crowd gathered before they made their way to the Corn Exchange where they spent the night. But police were accused of provocation when they forcibly expelled them on Monday morning. 34 02 19, 34 02 26

1934 02 20

The misconduct of spectators at a Huntingdon Town football on Christmas day has resulted in the ground being closed for a fortnight. 34 02 20

1934 08 08

Constable C. Hine of St Ives police and his young lady friend, Miss Lily Wilkinson of Hartford, embarked in a punt at Huntingdon for a quiet afternoon on the river. But a stiff breeze resisted the progress of the boat as it neared the arches of the bridge and PC Hine seized a chain hanging from the stonework. At once a distressing situation developed: man and craft parted company, the policeman was left dangling in the water while the punt with its alarmed occupant, drifted away. Then a second punt, manned by two ladies rescued him from undignified plight, a reunion was affected and a car despatched for dry garments. 34 08 08

1934 09 21

Who will give a start on his life's career to a young Goliath of Huntingdon who at the age of 14 weighs 16 stones and is still growing rapidly? Stanley Weaser is an ordinary, healthy young fellow with a zest for energetic recreation. He was fat as a baby, he has continued to be fat ever since. But he doesn't mind and feels none the worse for it. He possesses pronounced ability in sketching and would like to be trained as a newspaper cartoonist or, if not, a carpenter. 34 09 21

1934 10 06

The possibility of diverting much of the heavy North Road traffic which streams almost unceasingly through the centre of Huntingdon was aired. But a by-pass was a long way off. There were too narrow roads and two dangerous corners. It was possible to use compulsory powers to widen George Street but Hartford Road corner was far more dangerous. Quite a number of pavements were smashed since

many vehicles were so big they could not get round, which caused a danger to pedestrians, councillors were told. 34 10 06

1935 01 18

Huntingdon High street improvement – 35 01 18a

1935 02 09

Huntingdon Medical Office listed 50 properties to be considered for demolition under section 19 of the 1930 Housing Act. They include houses in Royal Oak Passage, Oliver's Court, St Germain Street, Woodward's Court, Castle Hill Court, Sayer's Court, Nevitt's cottages and St Thomas' Court. Another 48 are to be dealt with under section 17 including two in Herbert's Yard, seven in Sweeting's Court and one in Manchester Place. Notices will be sent out and the council would hear objections from the owners 35 02 09

1935 03 11

A poultry farmer appeared on a charge of wilful murder after his wife had been found shot dead in their home at Broughton. It is but a small village but a good many people heard nothing of the happenings. Even picture-goers at Huntingdon did not sense a tragedy when a message was flashed on the screen at the Hippodrome requesting a young man in the audience to go immediately to the village. He was a nephew of the dead woman. 35 03 11 & a

1935 06 07

Godmanchester medical officer said only a small percentage of the houses had water closets and baths. He had tested 30 wells and found that in 21 the water was unfit for drinking because in dry weather the water from the drains ran into them. He strongly advised the council to put in a pure water supply. But they did not want to put great burdens on the ratepayers. During the financial crisis of 1931 the council thought it was not time to embark on big expenses, in 1932 nothing was done and in 1933 they'd asked Huntingdon if it was possible to draw from their water supply. 35 06 07 b & c

1935 10 23

The Minister of Heath criticised Godmanchester Town Council for delaying a water supply scheme that had been agreed with Huntingdon town council. The Town Clerk and the Medical Officer resigned as did two councillors. Tenders had already been submitted and it was the most unbusinesslike thing the Council had ever done. But the Mayor said the lowest tender was far above the engineer's estimate and the Ministry had not sanctioned a loan to carry out the work. 35 10 23a

1935 10 24

A new school may be erected on the disused wood yard adjoining Huntingdon North Station. Lord Sandwich had provided 12 acres from his private park, one of the finest things ever done for education in the county. Provision would be made for sports pitches and probably a bathing pool. A beautiful set of plans had been produced but Alderman Wood Horn wanted economies made to bring the cost nearer the original £12,000 rather than the present £33,000 scheme. 35 10 24

1936 02 04

Widespread flooding occurred at Huntingdon and St Ives which one motorist says looks like an island. The water in the Old West is within eight inches of the top of the bank and these are being heightened with clay on the low places. There is also heavy seepage on the Wissey, all along the Middle Fen banks, at Southery Ferry and the River Lark. All banks are being patrolled by day and night with tugs and barges in readiness to deal with any emergency. 36 02 04b

1936 03 28

A Huntingdonshire branch of the Historical Association was formed in the room at Huntingdon Grammar School where Oliver Cromwell learned his lessons. This was the oldest building in England still used as a school. East Anglia was very backward in the study of local history and students

suffered a good deal because of the inaccessibility of local records. More trouble should be taken to preserve them and much could be done to make careful copies 36 03 28a

1936 05 08

Huntingdon discuss air raid precautions – 36 05 08a

1936 05 15

Huntingdon councillors discussed demolition orders on various properties. Slade Cottage in St Peter's Hill needed repair and had no water supply. But the owner said this was not necessary as the occupiers got their water from a near-by spring. Two shops in St Germain Street would become unsafe if the adjacent house was demolished while new drains had been put in and water laid on to Rectory Cottages. But no.3 Newton's Court and 4 Hartford Corner should be demolished within in six months. 36 05 15

1936 07 22

No air raid precautions were being taken in London and it was left to Huntingdon to decide whether they should take any or not. As they had two aerodromes so near it is quite possible that they might be attacked and have 'planes over the town. The Government expects local authorities to provide a gas-proof shelter and appoint air-raid wardens in each street but does not say who should pay for them. It was agreed to form an air raid precautions committee 36 07 22 & a

1935 10 03

A garage attendant in Ermine Street Huntingdon told an inquest that a Morris Minor two-seater tourer had pulled up beside the petrol pump. The driver asked for two gallons of petrol and he commenced to pump it after opening the bonnet of the car to get to the tank. The filler was on the side nearest the pavement. As he lifted the petrol pipe to drain it the engine burst into flames igniting the fuel which blazed along the pavement. The driver jumped out and fell into the burning petrol, her clothes catching fire. Before filling he had noticed that the engine of the car was still running and had not been told this should not be done 35 10 03

1936 10 15

Some 1,200 children attending Huntingdon schools come from homes where the parents were too poor to provide an extra pair of shoes for wear in schools and for physical training. About 2,000 children were already supplied. The council could purchase these at two shillings a pair, a total of £120, and would need to provide storage on school premises. It was agreed to carry this into effect. 36 10 15b

1936 12 19

Murkett Brothers, automobile engineers, who have large garages in Huntingdon, Peterborough and Bedford, opened their new premises on the corner of Huntingdon & Histon Road in May 1931. Owing to the satisfactory service they have given business has developed to such an extent that an additional garage is shortly to be built. This will cater for commercial vehicles and heavy repairs, whilst the Huntingdon Road depot will be for new and second-hand cars, with light repairs and service facilities 36 12 10i

1936 12 15

Proclamations at Huntingdon – 36 12 15d

1937 06 04

The sale of building land in St Peter's Road Huntingdon is being held up because of a lack of proper sewage. Builders are only waiting for a decision on the extension of the sewerage scheme before putting the land up for auction. But the council had not said how much owners would have to contribute to the cost of £393. Councillors decided to ask the Ministry to sanction the scheme provided owners made a contribution if and when the land was built upon. A similar resolution was passed with regard to Anchor Lane. 37 06 04

1937 07 07

Charges levied by the Huntingdon Town Clerk for acting as the Council's solicitor for securing ejectment orders in respect of houses served with demolition orders were described as 'exorbitant' by a councillor. It cost them £5.5s.8d to gain possession of a house rented at 2s.6d a week with another 14 guineas to pull the house down. The Mayor pointed out that the Town Clerk was only a part-time servant and when he did solicitor's work he was entitled to solicitor's costs. The charges were recoverable from house owners. The great difficulty was having to turn people into the street and owners naturally postponed the evil day as long as possible 37 07 07a

1938 02 03

Huntingdon and St Neots Public Assistance Institutions are obsolete, the latter should be closed and cases of sickness and infirmity concentrated at Huntingdon. They needed a hospital for 85 beds and a public assistance building big enough for 124. The grounds of Castle Hill House would be the best site; a modern hospital was out of the question but they might afford one of the bungalow type, the Committee was told. Cottage or 'Sunset' homes would be provided for the 65 other people at present in institutions. 38 02 03d

1938 09 26

Huntingdon is to establish a police reserve to replace constables called to the colours in the event of war. There will be a retaining fee of £1 to anyone joining with a bonus at the end of the year. Men would be entitled to boot allowance, refreshment and lodging allowances as other members of the force. When called up they would receive ten-pence a day pay. The age limit is 55. Three air raid sirens will be bought for use on the large police cars; they would be useful in the event of a power failure or in areas where there were no other air raid sirens 38 09 26b.

1939 04 01

Huntingdon will be able to accommodate 2,212 persons evacuated in the event of war, nearly half the present population of the town. The majority would be children but include 888 adults. 39 03 08b
Rudd's Garage and Petrol Filling Station on the Huntingdon Road is well-known to thousands of motorists as a place where they may obtain expert and courteous service at a reasonable charge. For many years it has specialised in the presentation of reliable used cars. They currently have a very handsome selection of the popular low horse-powered used vehicles, all spick and span and ready for the road and almost indistinguishable from new. They are also sole agents for the new Renault 'Eight' 39 04 01

1939 05 18

Godmanchester council's action in purchasing a siren for A.R.P. purposes was unauthorised and they must pay for it themselves. Everybody had thought the County Council would pay as they were responsible for public air raid warnings all over the county. But they had decided sirens were only needed at Fletton, Ramsey, Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots. The Huntingdon siren, supplemented by one at the hosiery mills was sufficient for Godmanchester 39 05 18b

1939 08 21

Lightning strikes Trumpington general store, houses at Huntingdon – 39 08 21a

1939 09 01

The first 600 of the 1,100 children allotted to Huntingdon arrived at the North Station. They were received on the platform by officials and after being given refreshments were taken by a fleet of buses to the districts allotted to them. Other train loads followed at short intervals and are being cared for by Huntingdon residents who are doing all they can to make their little visitors as comfortable as possible. 39 09 01b

1940 01 30

Huntingdon clothier W.P. Burges, High Street, fire – 40 01 30a

1940 02 02

Night Blaze.—Shortly after 2 a.m. on Tuesday the, premises of Mr. W.P. Burges, clothier and outfitter, of High Street, Huntingdon, were found to be on fire. The fire brigade was summoned immediately, and on arrival, found the rear of the premises to be well alight. The property stands in a fairly congested part of the High Street and access to the fire was a difficult matter for the brigade. It is presumed that a stove, which had recently been installed, set fire to a large wooden beam, which had been smouldering for some time, and was the cause of the outbreak. Mr. Burges, who does not live on the premises, was informed, and was soon on the spot. The brigade was hampered by the severe weather conditions, but a plentiful supply of water was available, and within a short time they were able to prevent the fire extending to surrounding properties. Apart from the damage done by the fire, many hundreds of pounds worth of clothing have been ruined by the water, and it is estimated that the total damage will reach several thousands of pounds.

1940 02 09

February 9, 1940

New Stationmaster.—Mr. F. Pick worth, stationmaster at Holme, has been appointed Stationmaster at Huntingdon in succession to Mr. W. G. Wenman, who resigned to take up an appointment as yard, master at Lincoln. Mr. Pickworth; has seen service on the railway for nearly 43 years, commencing as a clerk on the old Great Northern Railway at Mablethorpe Lincs., in 1897.

1940 02 09

Huntingdon Licensee. — A well-known Huntingdon licensee, Mr. Arthur Radcliffe Brattle, died in the High Street late on Tuesday; afternoon. Mr. Brattle, who was 74 years of age, had been to the barber's, and was on his way home, when he was seen to fall. Life was extinct when he was picked up. For many years he had been the licensee of the Queen's Head, in the High Street, and formerly held the licence of the Railway Inn at Brampton.

1940 02 16

Huntingdon's Accordionist. — Mr. Verdun Howes, of St. Mary's. Street, Huntingdon, who is considered the county accordion champion, played to an audience of 2,000 at the Palace Theatre, Wellingborough, on Sunday. He was accorded a great reception

1940 02 16

"Happiness in Prison.' An interesting address was given at the Women's Bright Hour in the schoolroom of the Methodist Church (Huntingdon) by the Rev. G S. Tydeman, of Godmanchester, who spoke on 'Happiness in prison."

1940 04 15

Huntingdon High Street serious fire Murkitt, motor engineers – 40 04 15a

1940 05 03

Visit of the Duchess of Gloucester. The Duchess of Gloucester paid a private visit to Huntingdon on Friday, and inspected headquarters of the W.V.S., the Central workrooms, the Edwards Home for children and other places in the district. The Duchess appeared pleased with all she saw.

1940 06 28

Death of Mr. Harry Hobbs.—The death occurred in Huntingdon County Hospital on Sunday of Mr. Harry Hobbs, who, for the past 10½ years, had been manager of Messrs. Freeman, Hardy and Willis' High Street (Huntingdon) branch. Deceased, who was 49 years of age, and was a brother of Mr. Jack Hobbs, the England and Surrey cricketer, had been ill a long time. From August, 1914, to March, 1918, he served as a sergeant in the 11th Suffolk Regt. in France, and was badly wounded several times, losing the sight of one eye. After a period of convalescence he returned to France and served behind the lines. As a member of the Cambs. and Isle of Ely Athletic Association, he figured

prominently in sprint events in Cambridge and district. He also played football for New Chesterton Institute.

1940 12 13

Youngest Billeting Officer?—Mrs Barbara Meadows, of Brampton. Huntingdonshire, is the executive billeting officer for Huntingdon, She is aged 19.

1941 09 20

Air raid on Huntingdon Road – photos of debris – 41 09 20b

1941 02 14

Target of £200,000.—Arising out of a meeting held in Huntingdon a fortnight ago, when it was decided to organise a War Weapons Week commencing on March 23, it has been agreed to make the target £200,000, although it is anticipated that this sum will be exceeded.

1941 02 14

Presentation—In recognition of his 30 years' service in the Huntingdonshire Constabulary, P.c. John Hufford, of Huntingdon Town Force, was presented with a cabinet wireless set to mark his retirement from the officers and constables at the police station on Friday last. The Deputy Chief Constable (Supt. E. Afford) made the presentation.

1941 04 11

Choice Joint.—An amusing incident was witnessed in the High Street, Huntingdon, last weekend. A small dog entered a butcher's shop and unbeknown to the man behind the counter, selected a choice joint. He was seen a little later trotting along with a forequarter of lamb larger than himself. And no one stopped him.

1941 07 04

Fierce blaze. — Huntingdon was the scene of a disastrous fire on Saturday afternoon, as the result of which a motor garage and valuable materials were totally destroyed. The outbreak was at White's Service garage in Stukely Road, near the railway arch. It is thought that the fire originated from a short circuit wire, and the damage is estimated at £1,000.

1941 08 15

Marvellous Escape. — As Mr. L. Curtis, a porter on the L.N.E.R. North station at Huntingdon, was shutting a carriage door of the 12-28 train to London on Saturday, he was caught by the door and dragged under the moving train. The latter was immediately signalled to stop, and it was found that Curtis had escaped with minor injuries and shock. He was removed to the County Hospital, where he regained consciousness, and on Monday he was able to return to his home.

1941 11 27

November 28, 1941

Target—a Destroyer. — At an enthusiastic meeting held at Gazeley House (Huntingdon) on Saturday it was decided that Huntingdonshire should hold a Warship Week on March 14 to 21, and that the target should be a destroyer costing £700,000. Lord Sandwich presided and Major Kingham, Regional Commissioner, spoke on the scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for raising more money. Delegates were present from all parts of the county, and areas are to be set up for organising purposes.

1941 12 05

Too Many Dancers, — The Chief Constable drew the attention of the Borough Council at Huntingdon on Tuesday to the excessive number of persons attending dances at the Town Hall. He requested them to arrange as a matter of safety that the number should not exceed 230. The council agreed that the number should be limited to 200 from January 1, 1942.

1941 12 05

Too Much To Eat. — The Mayor (Coun. A. R. Maddox) paid a visit to the Huntingdon British Restaurant recently to see for himself how the 7d. lunch went down. After partaking of sausages and vegetables, with sweets, and a cup of tea thrown in, he said he was quite satisfied and really had too much to eat.

1941 12 12

The Knowing Dog.—The following true story came my way this week (writes Watchman). A gentleman, who is in the habit of visiting a small shop in the High Street. Huntingdon, has to be careful he is not minus a leg of his trousers before he leaves for a small house dog is always ready to attack till called off. On asking the proprietress why the dog took such a strong objection to his presence, the victim was informed: "My dog always recognises the Air Force blue and Army khaki, and is more amenable to them, but anyone dressed in civilian clothes appears like a red rag to a bull. No doubt he thinks that everyone should be wearing H.M. uniform.

1942 01 30

Death of Mr "Bert" Grimwood, — A well-known Cambridgeshire sportsman died after a short illness at Huntingdon in the person of Mr. Herbert Grimwood, known to the Eastern Counties cycling world as "Bert." He was 39. Chiefly known as a cyclist, he was one of the founders of the Histon Wheelers Cycling Club, and at one period its secretary. Several times he figured in the winning team in the Eastern Counties team championship and shield. He was well-known at all sports meetings in the Eastern and Home Counties and was the winner of many prizes and medals. He was a prominent member of the Cambridge Town and County Cycling Club and of the Huntingdon Town and County Cycling Club and also a timekeeper and official. He was the joint holder of the 25 miles tandem record of the Cambridge Town and County C.C. and held several records of the Histon Wheelers C.C. He was also the holder of the ten miles Eastern Counties N.C.U. championship. After his business took him to Huntingdon, it occupied most of his time, but he always spared time to assist at races and record attempts, and in recent years a spell of fishing often occupied his leisure hours. He had been employed by Messrs. Chivers and Son since he was 15.

1942 06 26

Boy Drowned.—A boy, aged 9, was drowned in the river at Huntingdon on Wednesday evening. He was bathing with other boys near the railway bridge at Castle Hill. He apparently got out of his depth. The police, under the direction of Sgt. Gilbert, dragged the river until nearly midnight but up to then the body had not been recovered.

1943 01 01

Cromwell Decorated. - The Oliver Cromwell statue took an unwilling part in the Christmas festivities at St. Ives when soldiers stationed locally festooned the Protector and placed a bottle of lemonade in his hand. The visitors had previously enjoyed their Christmas dinner at the Huntingdon British Restaurant and a tea dance followed at St Ives Corn Exchange. Many townspeople were among the guests and a jovial time was spent.

1943 01 22

January 22, 1943

New Archdeacon. — Announcement has already been made that the Ven. Dr. K. D. Knowles is resigning the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon (says Watchman). He will relinquish the office on March 31 next, but will remain Vicar of Diddington. Now I learn that the Bishop of Ely has appointed the Rev. W. A. Uthwatt, Rector of Brampton, to be Archdeacon in his place. For some years Mr. Uthwatt was vicar of Bottisham.

1946 10 23

Centenary King's Lynn to Ely railway line commemorated; owing insufficient capital for Ely-Huntingdon line the project abandoned and only a short length built from St Ives station to terminus on Old North Road, Huntingdon. Failed to pay. East Anglian Company then built a vehicle to convey

60 passengers drawn by horse ridden by postilion with some outside seats for passengers. A special device enabled the 'driver' to disengage the engine from the vehicle when in motion. This continued for some time until steam locomotives again employed – 46 10 23

1947 08 22

Further steps are to be taken by Huntingdon, St Ives, Godmanchester and St Neots, the four towns so badly affected by the March floods, to press home to the Government the urgency of some action being taken to mitigate further floods of these places. Mr W.E. Doran (Ouse Catchment Board Engineer) said that in his view the inhabitants of those towns were suffering from the sins of their ancestors in building houses in a flood area. At the height of the recent flood water was passing St Ives at the rate of 11,000 cubic feet per second. It was impossible to dig a channel capable of taking such an enormous volume of water. A new sluice at the paper mills, St Neots would improve the position for that town but would not stop flooding there

1949 02 28

For the first time since Impington Village College was opened in 1929, a Gilbert and Sullivan opera was performed there. A packed "house" received enthusiastically the Huntingdon Music Makers Club production of "Ruddigore". The orchestra, conducted by Ethel M. Charles, was well up to the general standard. Arthur Tattersall was the producer

1949 06 24

After being in use for more than 100 years, the cast iron arches of the railway bridge over the Ouse half-a-mile south of Huntingdon, are being replaced by a modern steel structure. The policy is to abolish all cast-iron bridges under running roads. A greater tensile strength is needed to meet the demands of 450-tons of express trains hurtling along at great speeds. The arrangements began in March when the lines across the bridges were closed to traffic. It is hoped the lines will be open again in October

1950 05 20

A silver chalice dating back to 1569 has been stolen from St Mary's church, Huntingdon. It was the oldest piece of silver in the church and is valued at more than £300. It was last used at the communion service on Sunday, after which it was returned to the safe. The safe had been opened with the key which has been kept in the church for the past 12 years.

1950 07 20

Messrs Hall, Cutlack & Harlock Ltd, the brewery, Fore Hill, Ely and the Huntingdon Breweries Ltd, Huntingdon, have amalgamated and the new company will be known as the East Anglian Breweries Ltd. The registered office will be at Ely. All the directors are directors of the amalgamated companies.

1952 01 22

Cambridgeshire is the only county in the Eastern region, apart from the Isle of Ely, that has not opened an Old People's Home, said Councillor Miss Boake when she urged that the adaptation of Willingham Rectory as a home be given priority. The cost would be £9,851, including £3,500 purchase price. The Isle was now building a home, while Huntingdon had three. Coun Randall said there would sooner or later have to be a sewerage scheme in Balsham; there were four open drains taking sewage at the moment. Premier Travel has offered a withdrawn, but serviceable motor coach for use as a mobile cinema to enable the Road Safety Organiser to expand his activities.

1952 06 07

A Brampton man was a member of a party seeing off a newly-married couple at Huntingdon Railway station. As a joke he chalked on the carriage the words: "Just married. Gone to his doom". But chalking on railway carriages is illegal and he found himself before magistrates "for wantonly defacing" a vestibule coach, the property of the Railway Executive. He was convicted & fined the cost of washing down, cleaning & repainting the coach, which was 15s. It was not the railway

authority's wish to be spoilsports and stop a bit of fun but there had been quite a bit of this chalking and the prosecution might act as a deterrent.

1953 12 10

Two frogmen are inspecting the bridge at St Ives and making minor repairs to the foundations for the second time – the last being in 1947 after the floods damaged the concrete base of the piers.

Underneath their two-piece suit, flippers and helmet the men wore Naval jerseys and long pants & the only parts of their bodies exposed to the water were their hands. One was reported as wearing gloves, but this was treated as a joke. Last week they were working on the Huntingdon bridge where they carried out similar work.

1954 07 03

Huntingdon will probably lose one of its oldest industries with the cessation of the brewing of beer. For more than 300 years the brewery in the High Street has been active. Now it will stop. The score of women in the bottling department and the men on the brewery staff will be found other employment. None of the office staff will be affected and the off-licence premises will carry on as usual. Malting will also be continued and the dozen lorry drivers and loaders will not be affected. It will be used as a distribution centre for the Ely produced beers. Throughout the century many amalgamations have taken place but in 1950 they culminated in the combination between the Huntingdon Brewery and Messrs Hall, Cutlack and Harlock of Ely to form the East Anglian Breweries Ltd.

1955 03 04

Messrs Burtons of High Street Huntingdon applied for an off-licence in respect of wines and spirits. The branch had existed for over 50 years and because of the increasing popularity of television people spend more time at home leading to a greater demand for wines and spirits in the house. The wages of workers have increased quite a lot and they are now in a position to have the odd bottle of wine – perhaps for medicinal purposes or for a birthday. They look to their grocer to supply it on the few occasions during the year when then need it. But it was opposed by Messrs Hunter and Oliver who had an off-licence: usually when a person wanted a bottle of wine they would telephone or write a letter and it would be delivered. 55 03 04a

1955 04 01

Paxton Park Maternity Home is to close in September. It was taken over as an emergency war-time measure but does not provide suitable accommodation and has inadequate sewage disposal arrangements. It is hoped to erect a maternity block at the Huntingdon County Hospital but in the meantime they will use the Isolation Hospital. In the event of an emergency they can call on the facilities of the Huntingdon General Hospital. 55 04 01

1955 07 08

Godmanchester county junior school was opened by the Countess of Sandwich. Construction commenced in December 1953 and the school was brought into use after the Easter holidays. It has been built to ease the overcrowding of the old building in St Anne's Lane & sited to allow a maximum area of playing fields. A complete Roman skeleton which was discovered during excavations is now in the Huntingdon museum. 55 07 08a

1955 08 24

A swimming pool may be built at Huntingdon using money collected for a memorial hall in 1945. Although a site had been acquired and designs approved building restrictions had held up work and the costs had almost doubled. It was legally possible to spend the funds on a pool although some of the donors might withdraw their monies saying it was not being used for the original purpose. 55 08 24

1955 09 09

A scroll authorising personnel of RAF Wyton to march through Huntingdon on ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and bands playing was presented to the

Commanding Officer during celebrations to mark the 750th anniversary of the granting of the town's first royal charter. A parade of 700 officers and men headed by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force marched past as 12 Canberras and two Valiants flew overhead in salute. 55 09 09a & b

1956 04 13

Huntingdon Coursing Club had arranged wonderful meetings. The world of coursing had experienced its ups and downs and members had been confronted by the 'anti blood antagonists' who had managed to gain the support of a section of the Press; but at present these people appear to have quietened down. Soon enthusiasts could attend a three-day classic meeting at Huntingdon. 56 04 13b

1956 07 20

Samples of water taken from the River Ouse at Huntingdon after many fish were killed on the Newton stretch of the river contained traces of cyanide. It came from the normal effluent discharge from Huntingdon Council's septic tank at Hartford. No other sources of pollution were found and the only chemical spraying was using a non-toxic weed killer. It was important that the district pollution prevention officer should be on the telephone, but the Post Office did not have the necessary equipment. 56 07 20b

1958 08 01

In 1950 Huntingdon Brewery amalgamated with Hall, Cutlack and Harlock of Ely to form East Anglian Breweries. Now it will merge with Stewart and Patteson. There was disagreement over payment to four directors for loss of office. But they were entitled to compensation for fees they would have received but for the reorganisation. 57 08 01g

1958 03 07

Huntingdon magistrates turned down requests by the Fiesta Coffee House and the Nickel Coin Restaurant to allow them to play juke boxes on Sunday. The Chief Constable thought they would attract 'undesirable types' and such music should not be encouraged on the Sabbath. In London they were being placed in the better class of hotels and clubs and cafes at St Ives and St Neots had them so lads from Brampton and Wyton now went there. 58 03 07a

1958 08 01

Mr Wright of Riverside Works, Walnut Tree Avenue has designed a six foot clock to keep the public up-to-date with competitors' times in various events. It runs perfectly and with extreme accuracy. The timing equipment is completely portable and can be carried in the back of a Ford Zephyr estate car, including the collapsible clock face. It was first demonstrated at the Huntingdon Show and has now aroused interest from South Africa. 58 08 01

1959 11 13

Two grossly malformed children had been born in the Primrose Lane Hospital, Huntingdon recently and there were five cases of 'developmental defects', which were minor abnormalities, Huntingdonshire County Council were told. A Health Committee should be set up to investigate the extent of radio-active fall-out and the degree of radio-active contamination of food and water within the county boundaries. It is a fear lurking in the minds of everybody, a terrible matter which should not just be ignored. 59 11 13a

1960 07 01

Work has commenced on the construction of 184 houses, 36 flats and 96 garages, with associated roads and sewers on Oxmore and American Lanes, which will comprise the first stage of the Huntingdon expansion scheme. A new perimeter road will enclose the whole housing estate and a strip of common land will separate it from the town centre. Housewives will walk to the shops through pleasant park-like surroundings and tradesmen will deliver to back doors. Eventually the town will accommodate about 1,000 London families with the factories which will provide their employment. 60 07 01a

1960 10 01

A St Ives boat builder has created a modern boatyard out of an old derelict gravel pit in 12 months. Mr L.H. Jones, who moved his business from Huntingdon, cut a channel through to the river and dredged out the bottom. In his workshops he builds anything from small launches to 30-foot cruisers which are used mainly on Fenland waterways. 60 10 01

1960 12 07

Officials at USAF Alconbury are preparing for Christmas. The Chapel-sponsored food baskets will benefit 150 UK families in Huntingdon, there will be a mammoth party for children, 'teen dances and an appearance by Santa Claus. Each quarters are expected to make an appropriate Christmas display or decoration; last year thousands of people drove a special marked route through the gaily-decorated barracks area to view 'Christmas USA'. 60 12 07b

1961 04 05

The London County Council announced it will build homes for another 170,000 Londoner with jobs 'round the corner' for the wage earners. Huntingdon, Thetford and Haverhill are willing to take an extra 5,000 homes each. No one will go to these towns without jobs 61 04 05

1961 05 16

Chivers' Huntingdon factory will close at the end of the canning season and about 250 employees will lose their jobs. There is an excess of canning capacity in the Schweppes group as a whole and the termination of all works on dehydrated potato production 61 05 16

1961 06 22

Cuts at USAF Alconbury will mean 200 British civilians working as secretaries, in the supply centre, motor pool, community centre, library and snack bar will become redundant. Since 1959 it has been occupied by part of the US 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing and manned by 2,500 American servicemen who had 4,300 dependents. Now it will be reduced to a small detachment for weather, communications and maintenance services. The closure will have an effect on Huntingdon traders although the London 'overspill' population will offset some of the loss. 61 06 22a

1961 10 04

The news that the American air base at Alconbury will not now be closing will give long-term confidence to residents and traders in Huntingdon and St Ives who were concerned of the effect on their businesses. The Americans had announced that the base would be reducing its strength in 1964 and about 200 British civilian employees would be declared redundant. Now Alconbury and three other bases in East Anglia will remain open 61 10 04a

1962 06 14

Huntingdon's narrow High Street may be closed to traffic to form a pedestrian shopping precinct. An inquiry into proposals to redevelop no.35 High Street as a supermarket was told it was presently let as a fish shop, at the rear was a 16th-century house, now unoccupied, and an old tithe barn. It had dry rot and woodworm, a section was structurally unsound and it needed a great deal spent on repairs. But planners said rebuilding would have a detrimental effect on the architectural and historic interest of the street which includes numerous ancient buildings 62 06 14

1962 06 22

The shortage of water in Huntingdon has become so serious that the Borough Surveyor has warned residents that supplies may be cut off in parts of the town for selected periods. The level in the water tower has reached such a low level that there is insufficient pressure to reach the higher buildings. The Fire Brigade is pumping water to the County Hospital to enable it to carry on and workmen may be laid off at the Silent Channel Company's factory, where car accessories are manufactured. The villages of Brampton, Ellington, Easton and Spaldwick might soon be entirely without supplies. 62 06 22

1962 08 29

Over 140 Londoners employed by Horatio Meyer, the bedding manufacturers, have volunteered to move 60 miles with their families to new homes and work in Huntingdon. The workers, drawn from the company's four London factories, will form the spearhead of the staff to man the new factory being built in St Peter's Road making mostly mattresses and divans. Coachloads of workers came to see the site and the new houses being built under the L.C.C. scheme to attract people from overbuilt areas of London. 62 08 29a

1962 09 08

A guard was taken to hospital with multiple injuries after a collision between two express freight trains near Huntingdon. Fifty wagons and a steam engine were derailed when one train ran into the rear of another that had been stopped by signals at Offord. One engine toppled on to its side. Railway gangs worked through the night but fifteen hours later the line was still blocked. The men were provided with food from a restaurant car brought from Grantham 62 09 08

1962 09 14

Huntingdon council housing shortage – 62 09 14a

1962 09 25

Huntingdon's ancient charters were kept in a muniments safe which lacked ventilation which had resulted in some of the documents deteriorating. And one had gone missing. Archivist P.G. Dickinson said he was 'horrified' when he saw the state of the Godmanchester charters. They were kept in a wooden case and were in a poor condition, needing immediate attention. The famous King John Charter had been damaged by drawing pins and required attention, he reported. 62 09 25a

1962 10 20

Cromwell House Museum in Huntingdon was officially opened by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It houses the largest collection of antiquities relating to the Lord Protector and his family and is based in the school Oliver Cromwell attended. The Norman architecture has been renovated by the County Council with the encouragement of Huntingdon and Godmanchester Borough Council. But owing to the restricted floor and wall space much of the collection cannot be displayed. 62 10 20

1962 11 02

The proposed new coat of arms for Huntingdon and Godmanchester includes English motto – 62 11 02b

1963 01 15

The Flying Scotsman passed through Huntingdon station at above 75 mph on its last historic run from London to Leeds. The locomotive, which was sold recently to a Nottingham businessman for £4,000, was five minutes late. But train-spotters did not seem to mind as they jockeyed for positions with their camera and stop watches. A trace of billowing white steam roared through the station pushing everything, including the spotters standing on the edge of the platform, to one side. In a lightning green flash it had gone, well on its way to its first stop at Peterborough. 63 01 15a

1963 01 18

Should Huntingdon's 18 prefabs be improved and made permanent or be demolished. When they were built it was for a period of 10 years as temporary accommodation and many authorities have pulled them down. Several tenants have complained about condensation forming on ceilings during bad weather caused by the metal roofs. If demolished the site would make a good housing estate. But two have been converted to bungalows by adding brick walls. 63 01 18b

1963 01 22

The water position in Huntingdon is very grave and supplies may need to be cut. It is essential that householders do not leave their water taps running overnight – a practice which some people adopt to prevent taps from freezing – 63.01 22

1963 02 08

Huntingdon needs bypass – 63 02 08a

1962 02 28

London commuters are eligible for 100 per cent mortgages under a new 'home loans for all' plan by the London County Council. Loans will be made on any house or flat within a 50-mile radius of Charing Cross and will be available to those living in St Neots, Royston, Huntingdon or Haverhill regardless of income. Repayment can be spread over 25 years. The only restriction is that the value of the property must not be more than £5,000. Estate agents predict it will not have a dramatic impact on Cambridge. 63 02 28

1963 04 30

If Huntingdon and Godmanchester council support a plan to erect 185 terraced houses at a density of 13 per acre, it would be allowing dwellings similar to those built during the industrial revolution, a councillor claimed. But the properties off Veasey Road, near the L.C.C. overspill development site, were approved. "The brains of the Planning Office have considered this and it's not up for ordinary lay people to criticise", he was told. The majority of people these days only want small gardens 63 04 30a

1963 05 15

Hinchingsbrooke House was purchased by Huntingdonshire County Council in 1962. Now they have bought the nearby Home Farm and New Park to allow the extension of the Grammar School playing fields and safeguard the amenities of the area. Huntingdon is a rapidly expanding town but with the likely extension of George Street much of the council's office accommodation would be pulled down and it is essential to have land to cater for their growing County services 63 05 15b

1963 05 16

Hinchingsbrooke Hospital may be build at Huntingdon – 63 05 16b

1964 02 10

The struggle to provide a swimming pool at Huntingdon has caused a great deal of frustration. Year after year Mayors have wished it would open during their term of office. The idea began 30 years ago with a scheme for an open air pool on Hartford Road Fields using water from the nearby river. By 1957 the cost was estimated at £12,500 but this rose to £90,000 before 1962. Now a site has been identified at Bushey Close near the Oxmoor Estate with a hope it may be in use by summer 1965. 64 02 10b

1962 02 14

It is an "unmitigated tragedy" that Trinity Church, Huntingdon, a landmark for nearly 100 years, is to disappear, Paul Petty told Rotarians. It has been announced that because of its condition it will have to be demolished. At present Sunday services are held in the schoolroom. The foundation stone was laid on May 22 1867 by Thomas Coote of Fenstanton and it opened for worship on 16th September 1868. The total cost of providing the church was £10,600. 64 02 14

1962 02 21

Huntingdon Spiritualist Church demolition – 64 02 21

1964 03 20

Colin Drage of Abbots Ripton has been a rat catcher since leaving school. He cycles up to 30 miles a day carrying bait and traps. He formerly kept five dogs and 60 ferrets but now mainly relies on modern poisons. His biggest catch was at the old Huntingdon incinerator where he picked up over 800 dead rats, many others died in their holes. But now many old buildings in Huntingdon and St Ives have been demolished so there are not so many rats about. 64 03 20f

1964 05 02

Strawberry and the Fruit Drops, The Wreckers, The Huntsmen, The Inmates, The Ancestors and The Spyders are beat groups who rehearse in the building which adjoins the Grand Cinema in Huntingdon. The premises are occupied every night of the week by one group or the other. Most of what the boys earn goes towards buying instruments, equipment and running three minibuses. During weekdays they restrict their bookings to 40 miles from Huntingdon but they will travel any distance on Saturdays. Two of the groups, The Wreckers and the Huntsmen have reached the finals of a Beat Competition at Northampton that was judged by Norrie Paramour who asked for a recording. But now their rehearsal area is to close 64 05 02a

1964 07 23

Trinity Baptist church, Huntingdon needs £10,000 to make the church and its 182 ft steeple safe. The deeds say that if it is closed down and sold the money must be distributed to charity. For five years services have been carried on in a small converted hall at the back of the building with congregations from 50-100. The church is without minister at present and until its fate is known the trustees cannot invite a new pastor 64 07 23

1964 09 17

Trinity Church in High Street Huntingdon was sold by auction for £42,000. A landmark in the town with its 182 feet spire, it was built about 1868 replacing a chapel dating from 1823 in Grammar School Walk. There is outline planning consent for the building of shops on the site. Money raised by the sale might be used for a new church on part of the site on which the school hall and caretaker's cottage now stands or on another on a completely different site 64 09 17a

1964 09 18

Huntingdon Holy Trinity church to be Tesco supermarket – 64 09 18c

1964 10 22

Hartford county primary school opened to cater for large number of children from Huntingdon's London overspill scheme. A companion school for 240 infants is also planned. There are eight classrooms for up to 320 children who will be integrated with those from the old part of the village. It is hoped that by growing up together with those from the new estate the children would settle down into a combined community 64 10 22b

1964 10 27

Huntingdon National Hunt racecourse redevelopment – 64 10 27

1964 11 05

Huntingdon High Street 'nightmare' may become shoppers' ideal – 64 11 05 & a

1964 11 27

Huntingdon Trinity Church interior – awaits demolition – 64 11 27f

1964 12 12

Jimmy Savile at Huntingdon – profile – 64 12 12a, 12b

1965 01 13

Huntingdon expansion plans – feature – 65 01 13, 13b

1965 03 22

Huntingdon & St Neots will not close doors to coloured workers- 65 03 22a

1972 03 25

Three separate lines for the proposed Huntingdon by-pass were put forward yesterday at the re-opened by-pass inquiry. The official line proposed by the Department of the Environment would take

the traffic along a north-south route past the town. This is being opposed by the county's M.P., Sir David Renton, who favours an East-West line. But yesterday's surprise was a third proposal put forward by a Hemingford Abbots man which would incorporate the town's by-pass in a major route between Ipswich and the M1. He said in the next 10 years the increase of traffic with East Coast ports would boost traffic through Huntingdon to such a degree that a second by-pass could prove necessary if the current north-south line is adopted

1972 03 28

Some parts of central Huntingdon could be turned into piles of rubble in five years unless the pace of demolition work in clearance areas is changed. The Council's Labour Mayor-elect, Coun. Vic Howell attacked a move to class an area in Castle Hill as a clearance area. "In four or five years all we're going to have left is rows of piles of rubble in this part of town. Let's make no mistake the piles of rubble will lay there for years" he said

1972 04 26

The planning go-ahead has been given for the re-development of the old Chivers warehouse site in George Street, Huntingdon. It is the largest single industrial site in the town. The agents revealed it was hoped to attract one major industrial concern to take over the entire six and a half acre site. The offices to be housed in a modern block will front George Street and will be set back from the road in line with the present post office and almshouses. The property was sold at the beginning of the year for an undisclosed five-figure sum and the re-development is eventually expected to generate many job opportunities in the town

1972 07 28

With Murkett Bros' move to new premises in Histon Road on Tuesday, Cambridge will shortly lose a familiar landmark. The Huntingdon-based firm's motor car showrooms and offices at the corner of Huntingdon Road and Histon Road is to be demolished and a million-gallon-a-year petrol service station built in its place. Murkett's sold their prime corner city centre site to Chevron Oil (U.K.) earlier this year. Chevron consider the purchase of the old showrooms a coup. "With a traffic count of around 40,000 cars a day at this junction, it is a prime site equal to some of the best in London", said a spokesman

1972 09 02

Joe Bugner - St Ives' former British European and Commonwealth heavyweight boxing champion could be forced to train outside Huntingdonshire if his plan to build a gymnasium at Wyton is turned down. Joe currently trains in a gymnasium in St Mary's Street in Huntingdon. His manager Mr Andy Smith said "I should think that in view of Joe Bugner's contribution to this county in the past they could perhaps give him a little consideration"

1972 11 03

Pity the poor dogs of Huntingdon, Haverhill, St Neots and Mildenhall. An R.S.P.C.A. inspector said: "Many Londoners come down to places like Haverhill and feel they are in the country for the first time. They've not been allowed to keep animals before and their first thought is: 'Now we can have a pet'. They usually get a Labrador dog without thinking how big it will grow". Lack of time to give the animals sufficient exercise and a small garden often resulted in its being turned out on the streets and this was when the dogs joined up in packs to roam together. At St Neots the dogs roamed the estates in packs all day, frightening children and old people.

1973 02 09

Famous painting, Huntingdon – 73 02 09 p4

1973 06 04

This is the week the bulldozers break through a tangle of red tape and purse strings to make a start on two vital bypasses for towns in the Cambridge area. Today a start is made at Huntingdon, in two days it will be the turn of Newmarket, one of Britain's worst bottlenecks. The two schemes have escaped

the Government's road spending axe. Together they will cost £15 million and take two years to complete

1973 06 29

Huntingdon's "forgotten" town museum may be re-born if plans by the local history society get off the ground. They want to build up a town museum in one of the many county council buildings in the town which may become vacant when the new district council takes over next year. The chairman, Mr Philip Dickinson, said that a Government report, out yesterday, which hits out at the way the county is neglecting its local museums, could have been written for Huntingdon, whose museum closed in 1950

1973 08 21

Mid Anglia Police yesterday settled down to business in their lush new headquarters complex at Hinchinbrook Park, near Huntingdon. Removal men are busy removing stores from the old buildings at The Manor, Brampton. Removal vans laden with police equipment will be on the road again next weekend. Huntingdon divisional headquarters are to be moved from Ferrars Road, Huntingdon to The Manor. Work is already going on building a new police station at Ferrars Road, Huntingdon for the town's police

1973 10 12

Partly-completed dungarees are delivered to your house. Your job is to machine stitch the bib and braces, insert elastic into the waistband which has to be stitched and gathered, sew on a pocket. How much would you expect to be paid? This was the task given to a young Huntingdon mother who answered a clothing factory's advertisement for home workers. It took her five hours to complete two pairs, then she abandoned the venture. Providing her own machine, electricity and thread she decided the work was "exploitation". The payment was 10p a pair.

1973 10 24

Huntingdon's county ambulance service is being forced to run its vehicles into the ground to keep up with demand, and the situation is likely to get worse next year. Extra work is having to be put in by the mechanics to keep vehicles on the road because two new ambulances had to be sent back to British Leyland with brake trouble. One is still out of action and another had to be taken out again last week. Some of the remaining ambulances are wearing out faster than expected and will have to be replaced next year - and there is a nine-month waiting period on new orders

1974 01 16

Women's libbers pulled off a master stroke when they won equal rights in Huntingdon's new working men's club being built on the town's housing estate. And minutes after the decision was announced, the first woman was voted onto the management committee of the 700-member BRJ club under construction at Sallowbush road. Not content with their victory, the women are also demanding that as the men have had two fund-raising stag nights they should have the chance of a hen party

1974 01 17

The number of books borrowed from libraries in the region since the early tv closedown came into force has gone up considerably. Late evening boredom in Huntingdon and St Neots has, according to the county librarian, Mr Reg Keyworth, given rise to a "substantial increase" in the number of books being taken out. "People have been coming into the libraries saying they are bored and want something to read because of the earlier television closing down times" he said.

1974 05 17

Huntingdon swimming club's dream of an international standard pool in the town was sunk last night by Huntingdon district council. Club members listened to a debate on the council's capital expenditure programme for leisure schemes hoping to hear favourable comment on a £280,000 plan for an indoor pool alongside the existing Bushey Close swimming baths. But they heard councillors agree to put only £5,000 into the programme and to meet Cambridgeshire county council officers to

discuss the idea of a dual-dash use pool which would not be built to international competition standards

1974 08 8

The Government has given the go-ahead with the production of a cigarette containing artificial tobacco. N.S.M. (New Smoking Material) is really de-lignified wood pulp shredded to look like a tobacco material. It has been under study at the Huntingdon Research Centre for the past three years. The man in charge pronounced the new product "terrible, it smells ghastly when it is burning, just like burning wood. I'll stick to ordinary tobacco", he said

1974 08 21

The first council tenants have moved into the luxury homes bought by Huntingdon district council in a controversial bid to beat the housing shortage. Three families have moved into the £11,000 privately-built houses on Whitecross estate off Ramsey Road. The 26 house owners already on the estate have been protesting against the scheme ever since it was announced four months ago. A four-bedroomed house will cost £10 a week rent. On the other side of the road owner-occupiers are paying £17 a week mortgages.

1974 08 28

Children on their own are banned from buying sugar in Lipton's Huntingdon supermarket because the manager says they are running a high price black-market. Others have taken action because mothers are sending in their children to beat the 2lb a family rationing by shops. In all towns in the area the story of the sugar stampede is the same: as soon as it appears in the shops it is snapped up. The manager of Civil's supermarket in St Ives said they were having to ration to make sure a steady flow was kept. In Cambridge sugar was not available at most supermarkets but Arbury Discount had enough for every customer to be allowed one bag.

1974 09 09

Gale force winds swept through Mid-Anglia uprooting more than 100 trees, blocking roads and tearing down electricity power cables. At Grantchester the elm standing in front of the Green man public house, believed to be more than 500 years old, was split in two by the wind. A piece of Huntingdon history fell to the winds on Lattenbury hill, Godmanchester, when a tree broke in half. It is said to have connections with the Highwayman Duck Turpin

1974 10 25

A crane with a 100 foot toppled over and smashed into a bridge being built for the Huntingdon bypass. It was being used to lift a piece into place by the side of the Avenue in Godmanchester. One of the tracks was dug deep into the ground and the jib buckled, with part of it lying across the new section of bridge which will eventually span the river Great Ouse.

1974 11 19

Operation Mop-Up got into full swing as flood waters subsided after nearly two hours of rain in 24 hours. In Cambridge the river burst its banks from Lammas Land in Newnham to Pye's in Chesterton where the playing fields resembled a lake. At St Neots a disabled elderly man and his wife were evacuated as flood water burst into their homes during the worst flooding in that town since 1947. Office workers at the Anglian Water Authority headquarters at Huntingdon spend an anxious afternoon – waiting to see if they would be flooded. Children at Dullingham primary school had to be ferried across floods by a local farmer's trailer when water blocked the road.

1975 01 06

The new face of Huntingdon will be shown to the world within two years if a £2m redevelopment of the town centre goes ahead. It will provide a new cinema, public houses, shops and offices in a complex stretching along the High Street from the existing Hippodrome cinema to W.H. Smith. Several well-known buildings including Fishers Department Store and the Queen's Head public house

will be knocked down. Parking for 400 cars will be provided on a rooftop and a pedestrian arcade will link the complex with the bus station and the High Street

1975 01 29

The number of homeless families in the Huntingdon, St Neots area is rocketing. Scores of families have been made homeless after being evicted from tied houses or finding themselves unable to keep up with mortgage repayments. Hundred more are living with friends while they join the already-long waiting lists for council houses. The three-day week threw a lot of people on hard times, especially young men with wives and families with large mortgages. An official said the housing situation was “hellish” and was getting worse all the time

1975 03 24

Detailed recommendations aimed at presenting the town centres of St Neots, St Ives and Huntingdon from becoming “deserts” of industry and commerce – where no one lives – have been studied by Huntingdon district council. Up until the 1950s, the three town centres were mainly residential except for small cores of commerce. Even these had their high proportion of flats. Then came the dramatic expansion of the 1960s and 70s in housing with shops and offices following hard on its heels. Commercial activity forced out residential considerations and together with worsening traffic conditions the town centres gradually became less desirable places to live.

1975 10 02

The builders of Huntingdon bypass are helping experts to unravel the mystery of a centuries-old massacre in the town. Part of the site of a Norman castle at Castle Hill is to be dug out. The Archaeological Field Officer, Miss Alison Taylor, began work on the site and almost immediately uncovered human remains. ‘It is all very mysterious. The remains are placed very haphazardly, which seems to suggest some sort of massacre occurred hundreds of years ago’, she said

1975 10 29

When I told friends I was going to sleep in the Victorian cells at Huntingdon police station they decided I was mad. After an hour lying on a rock-hard mattress with a wood block as my only pillow I began to think they were right. There is no provision for women. “We just say this is the woman’s cell because it is a bit cleaner, doesn’t smell so much and is nearer the loo”, the sergeant said. Then he led me across the courtyard and into the air-conditioned warmth of the new police station. Seven cells have been provided for men and six for women. Every one has its own built-in toilet, central heating and air conditioning. Some senior detectives feel that the new cells are a trifle too comfy. Within the next ten days the old dungeons are to be destroyed to make way for a car park

1975 11 14

Part of a horse’s skeleton, pottery from Saxon and Roman England and an old black dog (very much alive) have so far come to light in the dig being carried out behind the Queen’s head public house in Huntingdon High Street. Archaeologists believe the dog must have wandered through the fence cordoning off the dig during the night and stumbled into their trench. Unhurt, but cold and hungry, he was rescued next morning

1976 01 09

One of Huntingdon’s best-known filling stations is to close after more than 14 years because of plummeting sales. The Afton service station has been a victim of Huntingdon by-pass. It has taken away most of the passing trade and is cut off from its local customers. The final blow came when the access road passing the filling station was changed to one-way traffic into the town. Local customers could not get to the Afton unless they chanced a hazardous U-turn across the traffic flow

1976 04 29

The eleven-month long drought brought two strong warnings today. Water supplies to all homes in the Huntingdon and St Neots area will be cut off within three months unless people economise. Elsewhere the dry weather is threatening all rivers with sewage pollution. Downstream from the over-

loaded Cambridge sewage works the Great Ouse River Authority say the threat of wholesale sewage pollution was now “crucial”.

1976 06 10

The newly-created Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia, the Rt Rev Alan Clarke, was at Huntingdon to carry out his first official engagement. The occasion was a special mass to mark both the centenary of the founding of the parish of St Michael and the 75th anniversary of the Hartford Road Church of St Michael the Archangel. Afterwards he went to USAF Alconbury for lunch as the guest of the officers.

1977 05 04

Two crewmen of an RAF Canberra and three children were killed when the plane crashed near houses at Oxmoor, Huntingdon. The main wreckage of the plane is spread around an area of grass at the end of Norfolk Road. The tail-plane of the Canberra wedged hard alongside one of the houses. Eight of the terraced houses appeared to be completely gutted with flames raging through the roofs. As the wreckage burned steadily police held back hundreds of watching residents. A spokesman at RAF Wyton confirmed that one of their Canberra reconnaissance planes had crashed two miles from the runway as it came into land.

1977 05 05

Mr Harry Evans of Sycamore Drive on the Oxmoor estate, Huntingdon described the scene as the Canberra crashed. “As I was walking along I looked across the estate and there was this jet coming in low like it was in a nosedive. It looked as if the pilot was aiming away from the houses. Then it disappeared from sight and there was a dull thud. We saw black smoke and flames”. Mrs Betty Smith escaped from her blazing kitchen in Norfolk Road. “The plane virtually landed in my front garden. I’d just come down to the kitchen. I covered my ears like I always do when I hear a plane close and then could see flames. They were coming across the kitchen floor and under the table and I ran”

1977 05 05

As Huntingdon mourned the death of three small children in the jet crash at Oxmoor, mystery still surrounds the cause of the crash. After experts had worked all night under floodlights amid the charred wreckage, one theory is that the twin engine Canberra photo-reconnaissance plane had suffered a failure in its Rolls-Royce engines. The two crewmen died as they fought to steer their crippled plane clear of the estate and a school 200 yards from the place where it crashed into eight terraced houses. Three small children died as blazing aircraft fuel spewed on to and into the houses

1977 05 05

The two crewmen of the RAF Canberra killed in the tragedy at Huntingdon may have sacrificed their lives trying to keep clear of a school nearby where 250 children were about to start their lunch break. The headmaster of Sapley Park Primary School, Mr John Richardson, said the whole disaster was played out in full view of the school. The aircraft crashed about 200 yards away just as the bell was ringing for the start of the break. If the pilot had stayed in the air a few seconds more the school would have been hit. The crew could have ejected to safety and left the plane to its own devices.

1977 05 05

The Mayor of Huntingdon said bureaucrats must take part of the blame for the Canberra jet crash disaster which killed five people. “It is clear the homes should not have been built under the flight path of the planes”. The Oxmoor estate, where 2,000 families live, is mostly inhabited by Londoners who moved to the town under the Greater London Council expanding towns scheme and started in 1955. Residents have called for a halt to flights over the estate and threaten to block the runways at RAF Wyton.

1977 05 12

Huntingdon’s “desolation row” where three children and two airmen died in last week’s jet crash, will soon be no more. Contractors moved into Norfolk Road to begin demolishing the shattered and

blackened wreck of seven houses. The machines brought to light pathetic mementoes of family life. Children's toys tumbled from upstairs bedrooms and the remains of a lunch that was never eaten disappeared under a shower of rubble. Huntingdon District Council intends to rebuild the block exactly as it looked before the crash. Greater London Council officials are searching their files for the original plans.

1977 05 17

The RAF disclosed officially that jet aircraft from RAF Wyton practice engine failures over Huntingdon but declined to comment on newspaper reports that a Wyton jet which crashed on the Oxmoor estate, killing five was practising a simulated engine failure when the disaster happened. A spokesman emphasised the manoeuvre is not dangerous and one engine was merely throttled back and can be put on to full power if something goes wrong.

1977 05 18

Massive housing estates like Arbury in Cambridge and Oxmoor in Huntingdon are breeding grounds for drug abuse, says a Cambridge psychiatrist. While some of the young people started taking drugs through their family doctor's normal prescriptions, abuse was master-minded by European drug barons who imported the material via the east Coast ports. The influx of amphetamine-based drugs (pep pills) into large estates was considerable and there is a very sophisticated distribution network. Cannabis cost between £8 and £10 per quarter ounce – enough to last a casual user five or six days. Heroin cost around £40 a gramme.

1977 05 30

Firemen risking their lives searched for a husband and wife believed trapped inside the blazing Conservative Club at Huntingdon. Fire raged through the downstairs area of The Views, George Street as four teams of firemen searched for the steward and stewardess until word was received that they had begun a holiday. The fire destroyed the lounge and most of the bar area of the 19th century building. The downstairs reception area was also damaged its portrait of Mrs Margaret Thatcher blackened by soot and smoke.

1977 11 12

Cambridgeshire's fire authority has hidden a fire engine somewhere in Huntingdon for the use of the town's 13 retained firemen so they will not, it is hoped, have to cross picket lines of their full-time colleagues when a fire call goes out. The retained firemen have been refused service at the bar of the Firemen's and Ambulancemen Sports and Social Club. One said: "We are a bit disappointed. We wholeheartedly agree with their pay-claim and would do anything we could to help, except take strike action"

1977 11 14

In 1975 St Ives Borough Council approved in outline the development of a shopping centre and office buildings at Crown Yard. They were asked to approve the demolition of the Jackdaw Boutique at the entrance, an old gymnasium and the music shop in the yard. These were among the buildings destroyed in a fire that summer. Coun. Fred Jennings observed that historically and aesthetically the buildings were important. "We do not want to repeat the mistake of Huntingdon where buildings of modern idiom are crying out among buildings of an older type", he said

1977 11 22

A Huntingdon inquest returned an accident verdict on the deaths of the crew of a Canberra jet plane that crashed on Oxmoor and on the three children who were trapped when their homes were turned into an inferno. At the time the plane was carrying out a practice overshoot of RAF Wyton which involved approaching the runway with one of the engines throttled back to simulate engine failure. Huntingdon MP, Sir David Renton, said the RAF must stop practising such engine failures over built-up areas & called for greater co-operation with the RAF about building homes under flightpaths.

1978 02 16

After a disastrous fire which gutted the lounge and bar of the Conservative Club in Huntingdon last May, the restoration work has now been completed and the club will be official reopened by the MP for Huntingdonshire, Sir David and Lady Renton. This will be a great relief, as the club has only survived by using a Portakabin in which a bar was installed. The club will now hope to encourage more applications from members of the local branches of the Conservative Association which exist in nearly every town and village in the constituency.

1978 03 16

Bottles and stones were thrown at a Huntingdon headmaster after an incident at St Peter's School sparked off a demonstration by more than 200 pupils. Police were called after pupils who had been sent home at lunchtime because of teachers' industrial action, returned to find a gate locked. Motorists complained that children were blocking the road, making it difficult for cars to get through. But the head said the demonstrators were a group of disobedient children spurred on by a small group who were not members of the school and that the gates had been locked in an attempt to cause trouble.

1978 04 12

Traffic had to be stopped on Huntingdon river bridge as workmen took down overhanging boards and tiles from the listed derelict hosiery mill. The owner says it may soon be sold for redevelopment. Interest in the mill has become greater in the past few weeks. It might be used for many different things, a hotel, or maybe a leisure centre

1978 06 26

More than twice as many new homes were completed in the South Cambridgeshire district during 1977 than in the Cambridge city area. And nationwide statistics show that the private sector building is the reason behind the boom. For while 333 dwellings were built by the local authority in South Cambs, private builders completed 750 homes. In Huntingdon 772 out of 1,011 homes finished were built by the private sector. But in Cambridge only 110 homes were built privately, compared to 405 by the council.

1978 06 29

A plant growing in the fens near Huntingdon could hold the key to a crisis being forecast with supplies of The Pill. Fenugreek produces a chemical which is a vital ingredient of the contraceptive pill. Now a small glasshouse of the plant has been produced together with a secret field which will boost seed stocks if the idea catches on. Much hinges on the attitude of the big chemical companies. At present they derive most of their supply from yams grown in Mexico, but there is now a ban on exporting so they have taken to producing it on the spot.

1978 07 04

The Huntingdon homes on the Oxmoor estate shattered by a jet crash which killed five people are to be rebuilt, more than a year after the accident. The long wait has been caused by sorting out details of compensation and insurance payments. Seven homes that were so badly damaged that they had to be demolished will be rebuilt. The announcement came as residents living opposite the site were about to begin a petition demanding action. One said: "It is horrible. We want to forget but we cannot because it is there all the time reminding us."

1978 07 13

Huntingdon District Council staff have been called in to carry out emergency work to make safe the historic Chinese bridge at Godmanchester after claims that children could fall through holes & drown. For months the Council has been in dispute with the County Council over who should repair the bridge. Now they have started taking legal procedures which might end with them taking the County to court over the condition of the bridge, as they are the highways authority who should repair it.

1978 10 17

The jobs of Cambridge firemen are safe in spite of a major shake-up suggested in an official county council report aimed at improving the cost effectiveness of the Fire and Rescue Service. It hints that Parkside fire station is over-manned, particularly at night. A reduction in the number of full-time crews should be considered with a new fire station in the north of the city. Huntingdon fire station should be reduced to day manning on a seven-day basis and changes are also suggested at Ely. Proposals could involve the deployment of existing staff and they may need extra firemen when the new 42-hour week starts next month

1978 11 01

A few pounds of gelignite put paid to the 120-foot chimney of the old riverside hosiery mill at Huntingdon. It was blasted to rubble by explosives expert George Williams who divides his time between running the University Arms pub at Sawston and destroying chimneys. He had demolished more than 100 and claims a world record for bringing down 10 brickworks chimneys simultaneously near Peterborough. The Huntingdon mill is being renovated by a London-based international company for use as a hotel or leisure centre.

1979 03 29

Cambridge comes out poorly in the new 'Good Food Guide'; two entries are dropped leaving the city with just one restaurant, the 'unusually suave' Peking Chinese Restaurant in Burleigh Street, and one pub, the Fort St George. Out go the Strudel's Restaurant in Fitzroy Street and the Golden Palace Chinese restaurant in Ely together with the Eagle in Bene't Street and the Plough at Coton. Old favourites which retain their rating include the Old Fire Engine House at Ely, the Old Bridge Hotel Huntingdon and the Hotel de la Poste, Swavesey. The Pink Geranium at Melbourn gets the humbler 'Pass' rating.

1979 04 25

The cutting of the first turf at Huntingdon's Stukely Meadows industrial estate heralds a major victory for supporters of commercial growth in the town. The first stage of building will be 12 'mini factories'. Many established firms have been in the town for a decade. At Specialised Mouldings the marketing manager said "Huntingdon offers a pleasant semi-rural environment and is an attractive place for employees and their families". Many of them moved with the firm from South London in 1967 and in 1969 the company doubled its factory space.". One of the biggest employers is the Silent Channel factory which provides jobs for about 400 people working on products such as car window channels and window seals. It was established in Huntingdon in 1936 and finds the location ideal, being close to places like Dagenham.

1979 07 04

Cambridgeshire County Council has decided to establish its permanent headquarters at the Shire Hall. The council set up its 'temporary' headquarters at Cambridge following local government reorganisation more than five years ago but decided to move eventually to the Hinchingsbrooke estate at Huntingdon. Now they have changed their minds: Huntingdon is not scheduled as a major centre of the future while Cambridge is a regional centre of public administration and an internationally-known city. It is a natural magnet for staff and to move would have a seriously demoralising effect. The Shire Hall site is large enough for all their administrative needs and officers pointed out the high cost of building at a time when the council was already in financial difficulties. Now the land reserved for the new office complex is to be sold.

1979 11 13

Swynford Paddocks country-house hotel at Six Mile Bottom remains the best in Cambridgeshire according to a new Egon Ronay guide. The inspectors praised their 'huge baths, bubble bath and gigantic bath towels' as well as their 'international food with a homely touch'. The Old Bridge at Huntingdon, Bedford Lodge at Newmarket and Slepe Hall Hotel at St Ives also come in for praise. But restaurants fare worse, this year even the Hotel de la Poste at Swavesey has lost its single star and

three have disappeared altogether – the Don Pasquale in Cambridge, Hunters Fen at Cottenham and The Chequers, Fowlmere

1980 09 18

Too many have accused Huntingdon of lacking facilities for shopping and leisure. Now work has started on an entertainment complex which will include a two-screen cinema and bingo hall together with more shops. The High Street can already boast some of the major chain stores and car parking is more than adequate. People dismiss the town's appearance because of the housing design and infamous ring road, but it is surrounded by beautiful countryside and it has the potential to succeed. 80 09 18d

1980 10 01

The county fire service will be ruined if planned cuts of £200,000 are implemented. At Cambridge the number of firemen will be cut by 20 and one of the three pumping appliances scrapped. There will be just one pump at Ramsey, March and Huntingdon and even then redundancies might still be needed. And if the firemen settle for a pay rise of more than 11 per cent there will have to be extra cuts. The news was greeted with horror by councillors who say it would put the county in peril. 80 10 01

1981 01 07

Work has started on the electrification of the railway line through Huntingdon, St Neots and Sandy. The seven-month programme which involves auger-boring by the trackside and the making of concrete bases for the overhead cable masts is primarily to keep a specialist team of workers in existence. Electrification of the East Coast main line at present goes no further than Hitchin where the Great Northern electric line branches off to Royston. The extension to Peterborough has not yet been authorised. The Cambridge line remains the main priority. 81 01 07c

1981 05 15

Cambridge ecologists say a bus which can run on railway lines is the solution to transport problems in local villages. They plan to borrow a prototype and run it from the city centre to Huntingdon, using British Rail's tracks. It would stop at Mill Road, Chesterton and North Arbury as well as the former stations en route to Swavesey. From this point the tracks have been removed but it would run along the trackbed to St Ives and the Hemingfords. 81 05 15a

1981 11 24

A whirlwind on the Oxmoor Estate, Huntingdon lasted just a few seconds but flattened garages, sheds and fences and tore tiles from dozens of roofs in the Nene Road and Sapley Square area. A third of the flat roof at the St Ivo Recreation Centre was also blown away but although people were using the pool at the time, no-one was hurt. 81 11 24

1982 01 14

The Horatio Myer bed company is expanding its site in Windover Road, Huntingdon creating 100 new jobs. The factory, which opened in 1963, is more up to date than their 106 year-old London building, which is being closed. Huntingdon Jobcentre says it is marvellous news as there are currently over 2,000 people unemployed and looking for work. 82 01 14

1982 08 05

New firms have been springing up in rural Cambridgeshire at an astonishing rate. Napp Laboratories searched for two years before bringing all their British-based operations under one roof in a futuristic £8 million building on Cambridge Science Park. Harcostar picked Huntingdon to make industrial plastics as it was a London overspill centre with housing. In East Cambridgeshire more than 40 per cent of all manufacturing firms are new, employing just over 20 per cent of manufacturing workers. But now industrialists are taking a gloomy view of the area's prospects. 82 08 05a & b

1983 01 20

A bonfire night prank by three Huntingdon teenagers misfired when their home-made bomb blew up a wartime pill box. They used their classroom knowledge to build the bomb using household ingredients, a gas lighter and a watch as a timing device. They thought it would illuminate the inside of the pill box for a pretty bonfire night display. Instead it ripped apart the 12ft-square brick and concrete structure with walls two feet thick. 83 01 20a

1983 05 11

The new Home Office forensic laboratories at Huntingdon is a world of X-ray fluorescent spectrometers and scanning electron microscopes. Much of the equipment has been manufactured by Cambridge firms. But a simple wallpaper steam roller is one of the most useful gadgets. It is covered with sticky tape and used to pick up any fibres from the clothes of victims. 83 05 11 p12, 83 05 14 p7

1983 05 12

Huntingdon Hosiery Mill which has stood empty for three years since its £150,000 renovation, may be turned into flats. The mill, which was built in the 1850s on the banks of the Ouse has been bought by a Cottenham developer. Some 80 units are being planned ranging from studio flats to two-bedroomed apartments with prices from £15-£30,000. 83 05 12 p9

1983 09 09

Hunts County Bats, tucked away down an alley in Huntingdon High Street, is fast becoming internationally known for the bats it makes for some of the world's top cricketers including them Pakistan Captain, Imran Khan. Orders have come rolling in since the company was set up six months ago following the closure of County Sports of Little Paxton. At present the two craftsmen, Tony Cook and Bob Hook can make 60 bats a week and wince at the prospect of a large order book. 83 09 09 p25

1983 09 17

Women will be able to give birth as naturally as possible - without drugs in a relaxed no-rules atmosphere – at the new maternity unit at Huntingdon's Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. When labour pains start, they will not take to their beds but move round right up to the time of the birth. They will also be able to lie in water to counteract the pain of the first stage of labour, says John Hare, the consultant who has studied natural childbirth. 83 09 17 p10

1984 05 30

Huntingdon's former county hospital, which closed after the new one in Hinchingsbrooke Park opened in 1983, has been put on the market. The main building with its classical style dates from 1854 when it opened following a public subscription. The removal of post-war additions to the front would restore the building to its original well-proportioned splendour, estate agents say. Possible uses include offices, a nursing home or an educational establishment. 84 05 30 p17

1984 05 11

Millie Howes of Houghton will be reliving fond memories when she settles down to watch her television. She worked in the Portholme aircraft factory at Huntingdon during the First World War helping build Camel fighters. A film made in about 1917 is to be shown on the programme showing Millie working in the factory. "When we first started we were given carpentry lessons, then put on fuselages and had to put the struts in and wire them up, I supposed where worked on two planes a day", she remembers. We earned £2 a week, which was good money, but it wasn't very warm and we had no canteen", she says 84 05 11 p13

1984 05 14

A Huntingdon family escaped unhurt as their country house was wrecked, Fire struck thee six-bedroomed home in Abbots Ripton Road, Sapley and forty firemen spent ten hours fighting a ferocious blaze. The other recent thatched roof fires were all at pubs, at Covington near Kimbolton and Marholm and Elton near Peterborough. 84 05 14 p1

1984 08 02

Government changes on the rules as to how much local councils can spend of the cash raised through the sale of council houses will hit South Cambs RDC. It faces cutting projects worth more than £3million. Similar cutbacks could be made in Huntingdon where the construction of a car park in Prince's Street and pedestrian plans for the town centre could be under threat. But East Cambs could escape unscathed. 84 08 02 p10

1984 11 01

The former Huntingdon County Hospital could be turned into a 'retirement village'. A Norfolk firm plan to transform the Mill Common site into a complex of 87 one and two-bedroomed flats. The listed Georgian building, which closed to patients a year ago, is to be the nucleus of the new development which will have recreational facilities, a library and a communal laundry. 84 11 01 p7

1085 02 27

While much of the country is wracked by unemployment, Cambridgeshire is suffering from a chronic shortage of skilled labour such as laboratory workers and electronics test engineers. The problem is such a threat to the area's development and continued prosperity that the Chamber of Commerce is launching a major new initiative. A Jobs Fair will be held at Huntingdon Technical College and the Government's Employment Secretary is being asked to open it. 85 02 27

1984 04 01

Huntingdon forensic police laboratories – 84 04 01a

1985 05 09

Huntingdon and Newport Stations took joint first prize in the Best Kept Railway Station competition with Ely coming joint third. At Huntingdon the 11 staff ensure extra care is taken with disabled passengers, posters and leaflets are kept tidy, brasses and windows cleaned and polished and customers kept informed of breakdowns or delays. There are even six hanging baskets. At Newport senior railwayman Jack Wright and his partner Percy Turner also take a pride in their work while at Ely staff often bring in flowers from their own gardens to brighten up the platforms. 85 05 09a

1985 07 12

Huntingdon Methodist Church has launched a £200,000 restoration appeal for repairs to the 100-year-old High Street building – 85 07 12a

1985 08 09

A pilot and navigator scrambled away unscathed when their Canberra jet on take-off and caught fire at RAF Alconbury. The photo-reconnaissance plane had switched to the airfield while improvements are carried out at Wyton. Twenty-nine people have died in military manoeuvres over East Anglia in the last nine years. A Canberra practicing a simulated engine failure crashed near a row of houses on the Oxmore Estate, Huntingdon in May 1977. Then in December an American F1-11 narrowly missed a school when it plunged into a housing estate at Newmarket. 85 08 09

1986 01 13

Lola Cars moved to Huntingdon in 1971 having started in a lock-up garage in Bromley. It is now the second most successful small racing car maker in the country with plans to build 75 cars this year. The workforce has doubled. People associate motor racing with glamorous surroundings but at Huntingdon they have skilled labour, a good road network and two race circuits nearby. The Lola works team is run by Hollywood star Paul Newman and the cars are driven by ex-Formula 1 world champion Mario Andretti. 86 01 13a

1986 04 24

Michael Copley and Dag Ingram were undergraduates at Churchill College in the '70s. One had a recorder and the other borrowed £5 to buy an accordion and they started playing on Saturday morning in Lion Yard. One day they received a knock on the door from a policeman. He wanted to book them

for a policeman's ball at Huntingdon. The Cambridge Buskers were on their way to stardom. They toured Germany and did a recording with Deutsche Grammophon which made them pop stars. Now they have been invited back to Cambridge to play at the University Music Club 86 04 24c

1986 06 04

The Commemoration Hall, one of Huntingdon's best-known landmarks, is crumbling and needs thousands of pounds spent on it. Even though funding has not yet been agreed immediate work has been started due to concern over masonry falling into the street,. The final repair bill for renewing and rebuilding a parapet and decorated cornice at roof level could be £10,000. The 145-year-old former Literary and Scientific Institute, now owned by the town council, is used as a meeting place. 86 06 04

1987 01 22

A 16th-century listed building has been demolished without permission, councillors claim. The timber framed former Spastics Society shop is part of a shops and flats redevelopment site in Huntingdon High Street. But the architects say the place was in a terrible condition and simply collapsed when builders were removing tiles from the roof. The whole thing was rotten. It has not all fallen down, but the front wall has gone. 87 01 22

1987 05 13

A statue of Minerva, the Roman goddess of Wisdom, which stood on the top of Huntingdon's Commemoration Hall for more than a century, has now been restored after being missing for 27 years. Three broken bits of the original statue were found in the Hall basement and taken to the county records office until a £3,000 glass fibre replica was made recently. Town clerk Ted Bocking, council architect John Rudman and parks superintendent John Childs joined forces to lift the new bronze-coated figure back into place 40 feet above the High Street 87 05 13

1987 09 17

Residents in Huntingdon's Victoria Square have complained about vandalism and unruly children who overturn seats on the green to form a tennis net. 87 09 17

1987 09 28

The Fenland Witch is a new Saturday bus service set up to help villagers in the Somersham area. It will enable people from Pidley, Broughton, the Raveleys and Upwood to travel to Huntingdon or Ramsey giving time for shopping and linking to connections to Cambridge or Peterborough. The vehicle has been hired from Dew and Sons by a former bus driver more as a community service than a commercial venture. 87 09 28

1988 03 17

Huntingdon Auxiliary Fire Service disbanded 1968 – memories 88 03 17d

1988 04 12

Huntingdon's Oxmoor estate has been branded the most deprived housing area in Cambridgeshire. A report by the Children's Society claims it has high levels of deprivation, crime, delinquency, unemployment, isolation and loneliness. But the Society says it should not have been named in their magazine since labelling communities as deprived can make people resistant to receiving their help. The estate was built between 1958 and 1975 for London overspill housing and accounts for one-third of the town's population. 88 04 12a

1988 04 27

A major row is brewing over the future location of Papworth Hospital and its world-famous heart transplant programme. Health Chiefs are debating whether it should be closed completely or relocated to Cambridge or Huntingdon. The benefits of Addenbrooke's sophisticated support services have been overtaken by worries that an upsurge in university research-based medicine could adversely affect routine patient care. Whatever happens it will stay put for at least 10 years. 88 04 27

1988 06 10

The final phase of Huntingdon northern bypass opened five months ahead of schedule. The stretch from Hartford to St Ives is part of the £5 million scheme which saw the Spittals roundabout section completed in 1980, allowing industrial growth west of the railway in Huntingdon. The contractors also had to build a railway bridge across the east coast main line. An estimated 14,000 vehicles will use the bypass each year. 88 06 10

1988 11 03

The revolutionary new DNA profiling technique has just gone into operation at the regional forensic science laboratory at Huntingdon. The new unit will carry out work for 10 police forces including murder, rape and violent assault. The system could eventually provide information such as the colour of the attacker's eyes and stature, scientists claim. Older techniques such as blood testing which can produce quicker, if less precise results, will continue to be used. 88 11 03

1988 11 25

Social services have stepped in to protect two children seriously disturbed after being caught up in satanic practices amid revelations that witchcraft is widespread. Coven and devil worship groups are probably active in Cambridge and black magic activity is known in the Huntingdon area claims a clergyman, one of five trained to combat the black arts. The vicar of Buntingford has dealt with youngsters "frightened out of their wits" by dabbling with the occult 88 11 25.

1989 01 12

In the centre of Huntingdon stands a building dating back to the 12th century where Oliver Cromwell and the diarist Samuel Pepys went to school. For the last 25 years it has been home to the Cromwell Museum, packed with artefacts relating to the Lord Protector. It has recently undergone a renovation to enhance the displays of artefacts such his hat, a gunpowder flask with his initials and his medicine cabinet. It is the only public collection of material on Oliver Cromwell in the country and attracts visitors from around the world. 89 01 12a

1989 01 27

Huntingdon Petersfield day centre under threat – 89 01 27

1989 06 29

Cambridge and Huntingdon could do particularly well out of the booming economy. But labour, training and housing shortages must all be solved. Two public inquiries will be held into the new A10 and A45 settlements, but even when the long process is completed it will be several years before the thousands of new homes come on to the market. However the closure of the Co-op milk bottling plant and Girton laundry mean people with no qualifications are being made unemployed. They may have to move leaving a county of yuppies with few to service their needs 89 06 29

1989 12 28

Two events put Huntingdon on the world map during the 1980s. The first came when a derelict wartime bomber station at Molesworth was selected as a nuclear base. The second was when MP John Major was plucked from relative obscurity to be given two top Cabinet jobs in the space of three months. But most important has been the town's solid growth from a sleepy backwater into one of the fastest-growing areas in the country with the population expected to soar to 36,000 by the year 2001. 89 12 28a

1990 05 11

Railway – last 125 InterCity diesel at Huntingdon; replaced by electric trains – 90 05 11a

1990 06 09

Private Cromwell Centre, Huntingdon rocked by blast – 90 06 09

1990 08 28

Harcostar factory, Huntingdon, fire – 90 08 28b